THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Representations received from time to time for amendment to small savings schemes rules, including the rules concerning senior citizens Savings Scheme, provide inputs to the Government for decisions regarding the schemes. Government of India *vide* notification No. GSR 490(E) dated 2nd August, 2004 has notified the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme Rules, 2004. Rule 7 of the notification is regarding interest on deposits under the scheme. In accordance with rule 7 of the scheme, interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum is payable on deposits on a quarterly basis.

Keeping in mind the convenience of the depositors, the facility of direct credit of interest in the depositor's savings account in the same post office/ bank branch has been provided for. Further, there is also a provision for payment of post maturity interest at the rate applicable to deposits under the Post Office Savings Account from time to time on matured deposits.

Revival of disinvestment

2954. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revive disinvestment in Public Sector Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) On 6th July, 2006, the Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review, which is yet to be completed.

Evasion of excise duty by pharma companies

2955. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated probe into excise and customs duty evasion by some pharma companies; and

(b) if so, what are the names of companies and amount of excise duty and customs duty evaded separately?